

REMARKS

Applicants are amending claims 1, 7, 12 and 13 and adding new claims 15-20. Accordingly, claims 1-20 will be pending in this application.

I. Notice of Allowance

In the Notice of Allowance (mailed December 17, 2003), the Examiner amended claims 1 and 7 and allowed claims 1-14. The current response assumes that the Examiner's amendments to the claims have been entered and proceeds from the Examiner's amendments.

II. Amendment to the Specification and Drawings

In this Amendment, Applicants have corrected four typographical errors in the drawings and three typographical errors in the specification. No new matter had been added, as all the corrections are supported by the discussion in the specification and by the illustrations in the figures. Specifically, Applicants moved a "From 615" transitional arrow that previously pointed to operation 660 in the flowchart illustrated in Figure 6B to now point to the operation 655. This change is supported by (1) the referenced transition from 615 to 655 in Figure 6A, (2) the discussion in the specification on page 34, lines 5-7, and (3) the discussion in the specification on page 34, lines 8-22, which provides the rationale as to why the process 600 of Figure 6 transitions to 655 from 615 and 645.

Applicants also corrected the description of the operation 1445 in Figure 14. This correction is supported by the description in the specification on page 51, lines 15-17. In addition, Applicants added a "From 2242" transitional arrow to operation 2228 on Figure 22B. This correction is supported by the description in the specification on page 72, lines 14-15. Applicants also corrected the numbering of operation 2246 in Figure 22C. This correction is supported by the description in the specification on page 72, lines 19-20.

In the specification on page 31, Applicants changed an inaccurate reference to a transition from 615 to 660 in Figure 6B, to an accurate reference regarding a transition from 615 to 655. As mentioned above, this change is supported by (1) the referenced transition from 615 to 655 in Figure 6A, (2) the discussion in the specification on page 34, lines 5-7, and (3) the discussion in the specification on page 34, lines 8-22, which provides the rationale as to why the process 600 of Figure 6 transitions to 655 from 615 and 645.

On page 72, line 13, Applicants have also changed "2242" to "2202." This is a reference number for the operation that the process 2200 of Figures 22A-22C performs to generate several graphs. As mentioned in the specification on page 65, line 1 to page 66, line 16, the process 2200 generates these graphs at 2202. See also page 70, lines 15-17. Finally, on page 73, lines 2-3, Applicants have changed "[a]fter 2244, the process ends," to "[a]fter 2246, the process ends." As shown in Figure 22C, the process 2200 ends after it completes the database tables; as specified in the specification, the process 2200 completes the database tables at 2246, which proceeds 2244 in Figure 22C. See page 72, lines 19-20.

III. Amendment to the Claims and New Claims

Applicants are amending claims 1, 7, 12 and 13 and adding new claims 15-20. Amendments to claims 1 and 7 modify the Examiner's amendments presented in the Notice of Allowance (mailed December 17, 2003). Support for new claims 15 and 16 are found in the specification, for example, on pages 13-16 and 23-25. New claims 17-20 are computer readable medium claims that contain limitations similar to method claims 1 and 13-16.

IV. Information Disclosure Statement

Accompanying this Preliminary Amendment is the 1449 form of an Information Disclosure Statement that Applicants are submitting concurrently with this Preliminary

Amendment. This Information Disclosure Statement lists and provides copies of several additional references for the Examiner's consideration. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record. Also attached are second and third 1449 forms of Information Disclosure Statements that Applicants have submitted prior to submission of this Preliminary Amendment but which Examiner has not yet made of record. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record as well.

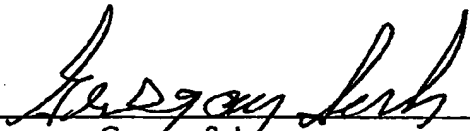
CONCLUSION

Allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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